

INL's Dr. James Lake briefs President Bush on nuclear energy research

"America hasn't ordered a nuclear power plant since the 1970s, and it's time to start building again."

Those are the words of President George Bush during his March 9 visit to Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio. Bush elaborated on that theme with strong statements about the safety and security of nuclear power.

"To ensure a diverse energy supply, we need to promote safe, clean nuclear power," Bush said. "Nuclear power can generate huge amounts of electricity without ever emitting air pollution or greenhouse gases."

Nuclear energy is a key component in the Bush's strategic goal of providing "reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy for America's future."

Dr. James Lake, Idaho National Laboratory associate laboratory director for Nuclear Programs, briefed President Bush on the nuclear energy research and development now under way at the laboratory. Lake said Bush is very interested in INL's mission and recent nuclear advances.

The nuclear energy presentation included a schematic of the next-generation nuclear plant (NGNP). The plant will be capable of emissions-free hydrogen production. Battelle leads the team that recently won the management contract for INL, and a key component of that contract is the development of NGNP.

"Many people have concerns about the safety of nuclear power. I know that, and so do you," President Bush said. "Yet, decades of experience and advances in technology have proven that nuclear power is reliable and secure. We're taking early steps toward licensing the construction of nuclear power plants, because a secure energy future must include nuclear power."

Bush characterized nuclear power as "safe" and "clean" and urged Congress to pass the Energy Bill this year. He also promoted the development of clean-coal technology with the ultimate goal of zero-emissions coal-based generation of electric power.



President George W. Bush
(White House photo by Eric Draper)



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"There's no doubt in my mind," he said. "We can lead better lives through the use of new innovative technology."

The demonstrations the president witnessed represent some of the promising work under way across the organization.

Bush's vision for the nation's secure energy future includes these actions in support of nuclear energy:

- Ensuring a future for nuclear power as a viable and emissions-free energy source by extending the Price-Anderson Act nuclear liability laws
- Modifying the treatment of nuclear decommissioning funds
- Constructing an environmentally safe permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel.

Battelle is among the largest and most diverse energy research and development organizations in the world. It manages Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Richland, Wash.) and co-manages Brookhaven

National Laboratory (Long Island, N.Y.), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Oak Ridge, Tenn.), Idaho National Laboratory (Idaho Falls, Idaho), and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (Golden, Colo.).

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- [President Discusses Energy Policy](#), March 9, 2005
- [Fact Sheet: Securing Our Nation's Energy Future](#), March 9, 2005

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